

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 3 are amended herein. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 1 THRU 4 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C.112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, AS BEING INDEFINITE

Claims 1 and 3 are amended herein to overcome the rejection. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled herein. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CLAIMS 1 AND 3 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER THE ACKNOWLEDGED PRIOR ART IN VIEW OF NOGAMI ET AL. (U.S. PAT. NO. 6,442,436)

The Examiner stated on page 4, item 7 of the Office Action that claims 2 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 3 are amended herein to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and include the allowable features similar to those recited in claims 2 and 4 respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 are now in condition for allowance.

IV. IDS

An IDS was filed on September 6, 2005. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS filed on September 6, 2005.

Moreover, an IDS was filed on July 22, 2005. However, the Examiner has not yet acknowledged the IDS. Therefore, It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS filed on July 22, 2005.

Please note that both IDSs are shown in the USPTO PAIR system as having been received.

V. CONCLUSION

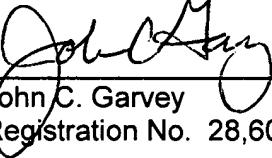
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11-28-05

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501